upgraded passenger amenities, depending upon the category of stations.

(c) In Andhra Pradesh, 13 stations have been identified as model stations which are: Dharmavaram, Guntakal, Guntur, Hyderabad, Kacheguda, Kakinada, Nellore, Rajahmundry, Secunderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Warangal.

(d) 58 stations have already been developed as model stations.

Permission for goods transport

291. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether persmission has not been given for goods transports in the newly introduced Bodi-Coimbatore train in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the permission is likely to be given taking into account the Bodi's biggest cardamom trade with other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No new train has been introduced between Bodinaikanur and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cell phones to train drivers

292. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide cell phones to train drivers to make travel safe;

(b) if so, the details of the project and how far will it help to control rail accidents; and

(c) the details of rail routes to be covered to begin with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, In order to establish emergency communication between the Driver & guard in case of accidents and other unforeseen situations, 5 Watt Walkie-Talkie sets have been provided to Drivers & Guards of all the trains. To enable communication between Drivers/Guards and nearest Station Master, 25 Watt Very High Frequency (VHF) sets have been provided at all stations on Double and Multiple lines Broad Gauge (BG) sections. This provision has been further extended to all the balance stations of BG Single line, Metre Gauge (MG) Single line and Double line and mixed 2 line sections on Indian Railways on the basis of local needs.

To enhance Safety in operations further, it has also been decided to provide full duplex Mobile Train Radio Communication System (MTRC) in phases on A, C and B routes on Indian Railways. MTRC will enable establishment of instant communciation between Driver & Guard, Driver/ Guard and Station Master/Section Controller.

(b) and (c) Works for provision of MTRC on a total of 2415 Kms on following routes of Eastern, East Central, Northern, Northeast Frontier and North Central Railways have been sanctioned and are in various stages of progress:

Eastern Railway:	Dhanbad(Pradhankanta)-Howrah
Eastern Central Railway:	Mughalsarai-Dhanbad (Pradhankanta)
Northern Railway:	i) Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana
	ii) Ludhiana-Jallandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi including Amritsar.
Northeast Frontier Railway:	i) New Jalpaiguri Bongaigaon-Guwahati
	ii) New Jalpaiguri-Barsoi-Malda Town-Katihar
North Central Railway:	Delhi-Jhansi.

MTRC can enable direct & instant communication amongst various agencies engaged in operational and maintenance activities, thus providing vital information in circumstances endangering safety. MTRC can even alert trains in vicinity in such situations.

Surprise checks of baggage by RPF

293. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many passengers who carry inflammable materials with them concealed in their baggage;

(b) if so, whether RPF is entitled to conduct surprise baggage checks at all major railway stations;

(c) if so, the number of checks conducted by RPF at Delhi stations in the last one year and the details of questionable/objectionable items confiscated by the RPF during these surprise checks; and

(d) how many cases were booked after such checks for questionable/ objectionable items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However since carrying of dangerous and inflammable items will endanger the safety of the passengers and the trains, passengers, found carrying dangerous and inflammable items are detained for action under the Railways Act, 1989 and other laws.

(c) In the course of normal duties, in the year 2003, at Delhi Railway Station, Railway Protection Force had apprehended 11 persons carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder, stove with kerosene etc. During the period from January to September 2004, 05 persons were apprehended for carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder, Acid battery, stove with kerosene oil etc.

(d) Action under the provisions of Section 164 of the Railways Act, 1989 was taken in 07 cases in the year 2003 and 04 cases up to September, 2004.